update

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news and events

Paris. At a recent meeting here, 25 developed and developing countries pledged over US$1 billion to establish a new Global Environment Facility. Implemented by the World Bank, UNDP and the UN Environment Programme, the Facility will be running by mid-1991. It will provide funding for investment projects and related activities to assist middle- and lower-income countries in addressing global environmental problems. The Facility will focus on energy conservation, protection of the ozone layer, reduction of climate-changing greenhouse gases, preservation of rich ecological diversity and combating pollution of international waters.

New York. A poem and a drawing reflecting on human rights in Haiti won a trip to the United Nations for Eric Prévot and Raphaël Sagage. The Haitian youths competed in a contest on human rights sponsored by the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNDP. The contest was launched in 1988 in the secondary schools of Haiti, inviting students to submit pictorial or written contributions that would "illustrate salient aspects of human rights, particularly in the Haitian setting of 1988." The 200 entries were judged by Haitian artists and prominent human rights supporters.

New York. UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III, and UNDP/UNFPA Staff Council Chairman Richard Olver commemorated the 42nd anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly at UNDP headquarters on 7 December.

"These are encouraging times in the world," said Mr. Draper. "Human rights now make front-page news and are openly discussed at the UN. We at UNDP, in our next Human Development Report, will stress the importance of human freedom."

Mr. Olver told the group that UNDP's new human development focus places priority on improving the quality of people's lives and promoting social progress. He said it was a time for action to review human rights concerns which directly affect UNDP staff. Issues which he highlighted included violations of staff's rights when they are arrested or detained in the field, the need for equal pay for equal work, and the importance of ensuring a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of staff and their families.

projects approved by the action committee

(all approvals subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

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Afghanistan. Under this project, existing maps, air photographs and remote sensing technologies will be used to carry out land surveys for agricultural planning. Surveys will reveal the location and acreage of crop types, irrigated land and fallow land. Training will help develop local skills in collecting, producing and analyzing land-use data. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,365,200 for consultants in cartography and land mapping, subcontracts, equipment and training. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and implemented by the Remote Sensing Institute. (AFG/90/002)

Bhutan. Through increased funding by the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the project aims to extend a government agricultural credit programme to an additional 3,000 farmers. The accounting and managerial skills within the Bhutan Development Finance Corporation (BDFC), which manages all agricultural and industrial loans in the country, will be upgraded. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $1,535,218 for an agricultural credit fund, subcontracts and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by BDFC. (BHU/88/C02)

Colombia. This project is geared toward decreasing the use of firewood in the production of sugar loaf, or "panela", which is basic to the national diet. The efficiency of panela ovens will be improved and firewood will be substituted with bagasse from sugar cane. Sixty demonstration ovens will be produced from new technology

developed by the Colombian Agrarian Institute (ICA). Proposed UNDP contribution: $970,874 for personnel, subcontract and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by ICA. (COL/90/003)

Senegal. Under this project, a credit facility will be set up to allow non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local groups to submit loan requests on behalf of their clients. These NGOs and local agencies will prepare loan packages for small businesses needing working capital. The *Agence D'Exécution des Travaux d'Intérét Public (AGETIP)* will appraise and monitor the credit programme. Technical assistance will be provided for credit administration and management. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $2.1 million for a credit fund, subcontract and support costs. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services (OPS) and implemented by the Ministry of Finance/AGETIP. (SEN/87/C05)

Sierra Leone. This project will help strengthen government economic planning and management critical to stabilizing Sierra Leone's deteriorating economy. Economists, manpower planning experts and banking consultants, provided through UNDP support, will assist the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL) and the Ministry of National Development and Economic Planning (MNDEP). Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,342,500. Parallel financing from the International Monetary Fund: $409,060. Funds are to be used for a macro-economist, consultants, data base development, study tours and equipment. Executed by the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UN/DTCD) and implemented by MNDEP, MOF and BSL. (SIL/90/001)

Tanzania. Under this pilot project in Mwanza, nearly 5,000 small-scale entrepreneurs supervised by seven NGOs will be given loans for working capital. New procedures for lending will be introduced. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $1,154,122 for a credit fund, NGO support fund and programme support. Proposed UNDP contribution: $698,000 for subcontracts and training. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the National Planning Commission, Office of the President. (URT/86/C06)

Interregional project:

UNCDF is sub-contracting the Grameen Trust to identify 20 grass-root enterprises in developing countries which will be eligible for seed capital grants of up to $50,000 each. The Grameen Trust was founded in 1989 as a credit institution for the poor throughout the world. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $1,738,000 for seed capital fund, training and support costs. Executed by UNDP/OPS in association with Grameen Trust. (INT/90/C02)

This revised project will support training to strengthen disaster management capabilities of national institutions, UN agencies and UNDP staff. Initially, the training programme, jointly developed by UNDP and the Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, will be conducted in eight of the 50 most disaster-prone developing countries. Disaster preparedness and disaster response will be covered in the courses. Additional UNDP contribution from Special Programme Resources: $1,283,533. Bilateral cost-sharing from Italy, Japan, UK and US: $801,637. Executed by UNDP/OPS. (INT/88/178)

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Afghanistan. This project will address housing problems of those families displaced by war. It will assist local communities in repairing 10,000 houses in areas of greatest need. New building techniques and improved construction materials will be introduced. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2,535,000 for consultants, UN Volunteers, subcontracts for building materials, training and equipment. Executed by the UN Centre for Human Settlements and implemented by the Ministry of Construction Affairs, Central Institute for Project Formulation. (AFG/90/008)

Argentina. UNDP will help the Under-Secretariat of Energy in policy and planning to establish a new budgetary system and a national energy plan. Third-party cost-sharing from the World Bank: $2 million. Proposed UNDP contribution: $140,000. Funds will be used for specialists in organization and planning, and training for 120 professional staff of the Under-Secretariat. Executed by the government and implemented by the Under-Secretariat of Energy. (ARG/90/003)

Bangladesh. UNDP will field a team of experts who will recommend key policy and institutional reforms, laws and regulations affecting forestry, environmental issues and forestry management. A five-year investment plan and a broader 20-year development programme

will be prepared. Proposed UNDP contribution: $823,000. Co-financing by the Asian Development Bank (AsDB): $823,000. Funds are to be used for forestry experts, subcontract and equipment. Executed by AsDB with FAO as the co-operating agency. Implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. (BGD/88/025)

Bangladesh. This project will improve the Bangladesh Water Development Board's (BWDB) groundwater and surface water observation networks. It will also improve the Board's water resources information system and train staff in data processing and analysis. Assistance will enable the Board to monitor river flows, including flood danger levels. Proposed UNDP contribution: $4,601,300 for a water resources engineer, a subcontract for land surveys, training and equipment. Executed by UN/DTCD and implemented by BWDB. (BGD/88/054)

El Salvador. Additional assistance is intended to expand agro-forestry techniques that have controlled soil erosion and boosted rural development in the province of Cabaas. A model agro-forestry programme will be extended to rural communities in Usulutan and Morazan provinces. The new programme will receive $15 million in financial support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Supplementary UNDP contribution: $356,000 for farming and irrigation consultants, training and equipment. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. (ELS/86/005)

Gabon. To slow migration from rural to urban centres, UNDP is helping the government with a pilot rural development project in the Ngounie region. Assistance will support local authorities, village and peasant groups in implementing economically viable agricultural projects. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2,145,000 for an agronomist, a sociologist, a subcontract, fellowships, training and equipment. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. (GAB/89/003)

Guatemala. This supplementary assistance will help the National Programme of Urban Micro-enterprises provide credit and technical assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs outside of Guatemala City. Attention will be given to improving the quality and marketing of products. Nearly 820 entrepreneurs will receive training in such areas as clothing production, breadmaking, thread dying and vehicle repair. A $1 million revolving fund will be established. Third-party cost-sharing from the Netherlands: $1,123,368. Funds are to be used for a revolving fund for small enterprises, training and programme support. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the Vice-Presidency of Guatemala. (GUA/89/001)

India. UNDP will help establish a Metals and Plastics Industries Service and Training Centre in the state of Goa. The Centre is intended to bring modern production technologies to small industries through consultancy and training. Through this project, the Centre will be equipped for designing and fabricating tools and dies essential for manufacturing. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2 million for experts, training, study tours and equipment. Executed by the UN Industrial Development Organization in association with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Implemented by the Department of Industries, Government of Goa. (IND/88/053)

Indonesia. This project will support government efforts to improve education through decentralization of administration. Through training programmes and an experimental administrative restructuring, local communities will have a chance to become more involved in school management and planning. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,198,150 for experts in education planning and management, research, workshops and project management. Executed by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and implemented by the Ministry of Education and Culture. (INS/90/030)

Namibia. This project will provide the government with an analytical study of fiscal and balance-of-payment needs. Such information will assist in formulating sectoral policies in agriculture, industry, transport, education, health, fisheries, mining and public administration. Proposed UNDP contribution: $781,800 for economists, researchers and administrative support. Executed by the World Bank and implemented by the National Planning Commission. (NAM/90/002)

Nicaragua. Through this project, the National Service for Vocational Training (SINACAP) will be upgraded to meet the country's urgent needs for skilled labour. Training programmes for small entrepreneurs, the disabled and women will also be included. The aim is to boost trade and industry essential for economic recovery following the country's civil war. Proposed UNDP contribution: $148,000. Third-party cost-sharing

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from the Netherlands: $2,131,600. Funds are to be used for training, fellowships and equipment. Executed by ILO and implemented by SINACAP/Ministry of Labour. (NIC/90/011)

Saudi Arabia. UNDP technical support will enable the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs to prepare and carry out urban plans for more than 100 municipalities. Government cost-sharing of $3,187,730 will be used for urban and regional planning co-ordinators, experts, fellowships and study tours. Executed by UN/DTCD and implemented by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. (SAU/90/008)

Somalia. Due to the recent collapse of the Commercial and Savings Bank of Somalia, UNDP will help to ensure the availability of rural credit through a new Agriculture Credit and Savings Bank. Its main function will be to direct and manage a network of community and village banks. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,138,750. Government cost-sharing: $1,183,480. Funds are to be used for experts in rural credit, co-operatives, marketing and training. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Central Bank of Somalia. (SOM/90/012)

Somalia. The objective of this follow-up project is to increase agricultural production in the lower and middle Shebelle regions of Somalia. The aim is to improve farmers' access to credit to enable them to increase rice yields and livestock production. A credit system will be set up for farm supplies and services. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $3,162,682 for loans, equipment and programme support. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Central Bank of Somalia. (SOM/89/C01)

Sri Lanka. Through this project, a tourism master plan and investment programme will be devised. A convention bureau will be developed to promote the country as a centre for business meetings, conferences and exhibitions. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,071,500 for tourism marketing experts, fellowships, training and equipment. Executed by the World Tourism Organization and implemented by the Ceylon Tourist Board. (SRL/89/006)

Tanzania. The Usangu plains have been targeted as an important food supply region for the country. This second phase project will establish a system of farmer participation in the planning, operation and maintenance of upgraded irrigation schemes in the plains. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,965,860 for irrigation experts, training and equipment. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Irrigation Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. (URT/87/003)

Tanzania. Assistance under this follow-up project will result in a national irrigation development plan for the next 15 years. The National Irrigation Division will be upgraded to improve management of irrigation development. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,975,440 for experts, training and equipment. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Irrigation Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. (URT/90/016)

Regional project:

Arab States. UNDP will help improve working conditions in the region by supporting training programmes and needs assessments within the Arab Labour Organization (ALO). The aim is to develop manuals and regional courses in such areas as labour legislation and labour relations. Proposed UNDP contribution: $658,800 for consultants, training and equipment. Executed by ILO and implemented by ALO. (RAB/90/017)

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